

Serial No. 09/638,606

Atty Docket No. GIO-007-US
5702-00007**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system comprising:
 - an inflatable air bag;
 - a gas generator for inflating said air bag;
 - a nitrogen-containing gas generant composition within said gas generator that forms nitrogen oxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof; and
 - a selective non-catalytic reducing compound placed within said gas generator in physical contact with and in heterogeneous relation to said gas generant composition, wherein said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, amides, imides, and amine-containing compounds,wherein at least one mol of the selective non-catalytic reducing compound is added per one mol of nitrogen oxide or nitrogen dioxide produced upon combustion of said gas generant composition.
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)

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12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said gas generant composition is extruded into a desirable shape and upon combustion yields gases comprising NO_x gas, and, said reducing compound contains at least one mole of elemental nitrogen per one mole of NO_x produced by the gas generant composition upon combustion and is discretely interspersed about the gas generant composition.

14. (previously presented) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said gas generant composition comprises at least one material of each of the following functional groups of materials – a) a fuel selected from the group of azole compounds consisting of triazole, aminotetrazole, tetrazole, bitetrazole, and metal salts of these compounds; b) an oxygen containing oxidizer compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, lanthanide and ammonium nitrates and perchlorates or from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal chlorates and peroxides; and c) a low-temperature slag forming material which is sufficient in amount during combustion to cause the solid combustion particles to coalesce into easily filterable slag or clinkers but not so much as to make a low viscosity liquid, selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, boric oxide and vanadium pentoxide or from the group consisting of alkali metal silicates, borates, and carbonates or from the group consisting of naturally occurring clays and talcs, and, the gas generant composition is extruded into a desirable shape and combusts to yield gases comprising NO_x gases, and, the reducing compound contains at least one mole of elemental nitrogen per one mole of NO_x produced by the gas generating mixture upon combustion, and is interspersed about the gas generant composition.

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15. (previously presented) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 3 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen oxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

16. (previously presented) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 13 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen oxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

17. (previously presented) The vehicle occupant restraint system of claim 14 wherein said nitrogen-containing gas generant composition produces nitrogen oxide and/or nitrogen dioxide upon combustion thereof and said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is proximate to and heterogeneously interspersed about said gas generant composition, whereby said reducing compound reduces the nitrogen monoxide and/or nitrogen dioxide produced from combustion of said gas generant composition.

18. (previously presented) A vehicle occupant restraint system of Claim 3 wherein:

said selective non-catalytic reducing compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium carbonate ((NH₄)₂CO₃), ammonium sulfate

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